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inner chamber was a place of sepulture for some once great, although now forgotten, personage.

ON THE DUNS OF CLOCH-AN-PHUCA AND LOG-AN-CHORAIN.

BY MR. DANIEL BYRNE.

[*Read at the Meeting of July 9th.*]

THE dun of **Cloč-an-Phuca** (*Cloch-an-Phuca*), commonly called Clopook, i.e. the Puca's Rock, is situate in a valley about two miles, in a southerly direction, from Timahoe, in the Queen's County. It consists of a partially isolated rock, standing out from the range of hills on the north-east side of the valley, and was most probably at a very early age occupied as one of the chief fortresses of the O'Mores, perhaps indeed a royal residence. The diameter of the dun at the summit, from north-east to south-west, is one hundred and ten yards. The measurement south-east to north-west is nearly the same. Around the top are the remains of a stone and lime cemented fortification about twelve feet in breadth. Within this circle on the south-east are the foundations of two chambers, or a castle divided into two apartments; the principal apartment is fifteen feet by fourteen. This castle stood near the verge of the dun, and was composed of stone, with lime and sand cement. The height of the dun from the surface of the land on the north and east is more than one hundred and forty feet, and it is of equal height on the south-west. Within the rock, and beneath the fortification above described, is an extensive cave, the entrance of which is on the south-west side. It is seven yards in breadth and three in height; as a person advances in, it is from four to five yards in breadth, and at thirteen yards from the entrance it becomes extremely narrow, and is closed up by dry stones, lest cattle should descend into the cave and be lost.

Opposite the dun of Clopook, on the other side of the valley, southward, may be seen another eminence of a somewhat similar form, called the dun of Lugacurren, i.e. **Log-an-chorain** (*Log-an-chorain*), the Hollow of the Hook. This is a remarkable curiosity, and may justly be called the hill of caves. In a hill, which is an outskirt of the dun, towards the south, is a cave, at the entrance six feet wide and two feet high. The entrance opens at the bottom of a pit, formed by nature, four feet deep, and ten feet in diameter. On the west side of the dun is a cave, at the entrance two feet deep, and two feet in breadth. The rock at the entrance is smooth and perpendicularly erect. On the north side of the dun is another fissure, at the entrance three feet high, and from six to twelve inches in breadth. On the north by east

is another cavern, six feet high, by four feet at bottom and top. The rock that forms the roof is perfectly level, as also is the floor of the cave which winds in serpentine form. I entered the cave so far as the light of day had power to extend, which was about forty feet. The caves are about eighty feet above the level of the plain, and about two hundred feet below the summit of the dun.

To the south-west of the dun, and about a quarter of a mile from it, on the south-west of the Lugacurren road, is a fine pillar-stone. On the west, about one quarter of a mile distant, and directly to the south of the dun of Clopook, is another pillar-stone of a triangular form; five feet long, by two feet at each end. It is three feet high; the high end rests towards the north.

About one hundred and forty-seven yards from this stone is a sandy hillock, west by north of the pillar-stone. A man named Corcoran, assured me that about twenty years ago, he discovered in this hillock a great quantity of human bones. And by the description he gave me of the skulls, they seemed to be similar to the skulls I discovered in the field west of the rath of Ballinaclough, already referred to in the Transactions of the Society, p. 134. All the human remains described by Corcoran, lay promiscuously; and the skulls appeared to have been severed from the bodies. The remains lay, and numbers of them still lie, from three to four feet beneath the surface. Corcoran, by making an excavation about four feet square, discovered no less than twenty skulls. The two pillar-stones which I here bring under notice, and the hillock of skulls, lie directly in the line of battle which was fought by the Leinster and Munster forces, and which, in the Transactions of this Society for the year 1850, p. 133, I have endeavoured to trace by the light of local tradition.*

There is an old church near the dun of Clopook, anciently known by the name of Bla-kil-anan [*Bel-atha Chille-Anan*]. The remains of this church indicate a remote antiquity; it is built with surface stones, and the walls are of great thickness. Near to the church, south by west, is a small hill, called Knuckaun-Navish (*Knuckaun-Navish*), or the hill of vengeance. On this hill, formerly, the O'Kellys, who possessed originally the extensive lands of Lugacurren (known, in remote ages, by the name of Fearann Ui Cheallaigh, or O'Kelly's land), and the O'Mores fought an obstinate battle regarding a tax imposed by the latter. So great was the slaughter that the river beneath the hill was discoloured by the blood, and the hill for many years produced double crops. Not far from the hill of vengeance is a pit called the Piper's Pit. It is said that some years past as men were employed digging out gravel from the pit, as they sat

* I wish here to correct an error, which has crept into my former paper, regarding the line of retreat of the Momonians. I hold it to be most improbable, that Tullymoy should be situated near Morett, on the great Heath of Maryborough, as in that case the retreating forces would have taken a circuit of sixteen miles, or more, out of the direct road from *Cill-Cro* to *Cloch-Ghlas*, as will appear evident to any person familiar with the locality.

one evening on the bank, they heard the music of a bag-pipes in the pit. On the next day they discovered the bones of a human being, and the remains of a well-adorned bag-pipes ! No other remains of the dead have been discovered in this locality, with the exception of one human skeleton, which was found on a rock on the townland of Clough-bee, near to the old church of Fossy. The remains lay about one foot deep under the surface, and with the bones were found a knife and fork.

Not far from the Piper's Pit, towards the west, are what are called by the people, War Pits ; evidently entrenchments made by the soldiers of the O'Mores or O'Kellys. Numbers, in all probability, have fallen on the plain on which the entrenchments are situated.

To the north-east of Timahoe, and near to the line of battle fought by the Leinster and Munster armies, is a place called *Βόταρ-α-μαρβέτα* (*Boro-vorre*), or the slaughter-road, because numbers there fell in battle. There the O'Mores and O'Broenains of Ui-Duach fought, and the tradition of this locality is, that the O'Mores were victorious. On the plain of battle was formerly a large pit into which the dead were cast and earth thrown over them, as appeared by a quantity of human bones discovered there some years since.

ON THE SUPPOSED PELASGIAN INSCRIPTION OF TORY HILL.

BY THE REV. JAMES GRAVES.

[*Read at the Meeting of March 5th.*]

The late William Tighe, Esq., in his valuable statistical work, was the first to record the existence, and speculate on the meaning of an inscription which had been discovered, carved on a cromleac-shaped structure which then rested upon the summit of Tory Hill, near Mullinavat, in this County. According to Mr. Tighe's reading, the characters were Pelasgic, the inscription was considered to be equivalent to the words BELI DIUOSE, and held to indicate the consecration of the pile to the service of Baal or Bel ; a deity, said by Dionysius the geographer, to have been worshipped in the British Isles under the *alias* of Dionusos. (*Statistical Observations relative to the County of Kilkenny*, p. 622).

Supposing Mr. Tighe's interpretation correct, it will at once be seen, that a fact is established, the importance of which can scarcely be overrated. A Phœnician colonization of the eastern portion of Ireland, or at least an intimate intercourse between that people and the Irish would be thereby proved beyond a doubt. From no other source could the "Pelasgic B" and other supposed Phœnician characters of the inscription be derived, as it is acknowledged that the Greeks received the inestimable treasure of syllabic writing from the Phœnicians. Indeed